

MINUTES

Mayor's Advisory Committee
Parks, Recreation, and Open Space Plan
Campbell Senior Center--155 High Street

April 7, 2004
7 p.m.

PRESENT: Nancy Nathanson, Chair; Dan Arkin, Dale Berg, Merle Bottge, Roxy Cuellar, Corey Dingman, Art Farley, Steve Johnson, Avishai Schermerhorn, Linda Swisher, Tim Whitley, members; Andrea Riner, Carrie Peterson, Parks and Open Space Division; Renee Grube, Tim Patrick, LCOG; Denise Kalakay, Lane Council of Governments; Misty Fisher, Sally McIntyre, MIG, Inc.

I. Welcome

As Ms. Nathanson had not arrived due to a meeting conflict, Ms. Riner convened the meeting. Those present introduced themselves.

II. Public Comments

There was no one present wishing to offer public comment.

Mr. Arkin distributed a flier for Barrier Awareness Day.

III. Meeting Minutes Review/Approval

Ms. Bottge, seconded by Ms. Cuellar, moved to approve the minutes of February 4, 2004, March 3, 2004, and July 30, 2002. The motion passed unanimously.

V. Community Design Forum Review

Members praised the forum that occurred on April 3. Mr. Berg encouraged staff to hold such a forum on an annual basis. Ms. Riner distributed an article from the *Oregon Daily Emerald* regarding the forum.

Members debriefed the design forum, which attracted about 70 attendees. There was general concurrence that the participation was very informative, although many of the participants attended in order to further a specific project or idea. Members discussed some of the ideas raised at the forum, which Ms. Fisher recorded on flip charts.

- City Central

- Youth programs
 - Community centers
 - 50k grant--Seniors on Patrol
 - Skate Park--Washington/Jefferson Bridge, 400 signatures
 - Steam Museum
 - Willamette River
 - Water Park by Ferry Street Bridge
- Willow Creek
 - Lack of neighborhood parks
 - Lack of connectivity
 - Ridgeline and open space
 - Westmoreland School is closing
- South
 - Vacant lot--Madison and 22nd
 - Interconnectivity
- Bethel
 - Connectivity
 - Golden Gardens has a bus stop and could include a community center
- Willakenzie
 - Field from school closure

General Meeting Comments

- Recognized that blind people may not have access to information about where the parks are.
- Note that guide dogs lead to the left, which puts blind pedestrians on the wrong side of the trail.
- Consult the Portland Park website for information on dog education.
- Find statistics on dog bites in parks.
- Ask for a meeting with Eugene's Human Rights Commission to present plan findings.

Ms. Nathanson arrived.

IV. Parks and Open Space Discussion

Ms. McIntyre solicited comments from the committee regarding the text of the February 2004 Draft Parks and Open Space Analysis, which was provided to the committee as a handout. Ms. Fisher recorded the comments on flip charts.

Preliminary Recommendations: General

- Consider rewording bullet number three on total parkland, replacing "recreation resources" with "parks, recreation, and open space."
- Note that the proposed standard of 20 acres/1000 is based on the analysis of total need for all park types.
- Consider using the word "provides" instead of "balances" in the second bullet: "The parkland standards provides for both active recreation and preservation of natural areas."
- Emphasize connectivity between all parks and natural areas, which has been a constant theme for this committee.

- Should we consider raising the level of service across the board, as we want to do more than just provide “adequate” recreation?
- Reconsider the assumption that parks are inadequate. Some people disagree.
- Note that public involvement findings indicate that people do want more parks and recreation opportunities. We heard a lot about inadequacy.
- Look at serving all areas adequately. Some areas, like Bethel, are inadequately served.
- Maintain geographic distribution.
- Think about creating a higher standard for pools. We need/want more pools (and our current pools need renovations).
- Consider making more modest recommendations--maybe more natural areas and linear parks.
- Note that the presented recommendations are modest, since we fall below standards and need to plan for growth.
- Realize that some new facilities, such as pools and community centers, are big-ticket items and others are lower cost.

Preliminary Recommendations: Parks and Open Space

- Clarify the urban plaza concept. Examples are Broadway Plaza and the Park Blocks
- Reconsider whether urban plazas are really needed in every planning area. Large cities required urban plazas in the 1960's and 70's, but they are now abandoned.
- Delete the second sentence in bullet number four, regarding natural area parks (comment on “balances active parks and natural areas.”)
- Possibly change the wording in bullet number seven (regarding metropolitan parks) and state it as a “need” instead of an opportunity. We may need more metropolitan parks.
- Suggest changing the measurement from acres to miles when referring to linear parks.
- Consider changing linear parks to “greenways.”
- Clarify the combined standard recommended for other park types.
- Note that the number of acres provided here for special facilities tracks the acreage on which these facilities are built. The need for these facilities is also analyzed in the section on Outdoor Recreation.
- Keep in mind the overall goal of connectivity. See how public transit fits in.

Preliminary Recommendations: Outdoor Recreation

- Note that these elements do not have proposed standards; we did a current and projected assessment of need. A standard is not recommended since needs change over time.
- Consider whether sand volleyball courts are distributed appropriately. Reword last sentence of the bullet to say: “The 3 courts on school district property are assumed to meet the current need, although they are not well distributed.”
- Should we recommend another public golf course?
 - Shouldn’t be high priority
 - Eliminate the word “provide”
 - Consider affordability
 - Remember public can be excluded from private courses
- Need to consider whether we are forgetting anything that didn’t make the list.
- Should make sure and reference something towards multi-generational and/or multi-ability.
- Need to prioritize the list.
- Reconsider whether we really need disc golf courses in every area. It doesn’t seem to be big trend right now. Do we expect it to increase in the future?

- Question assumption that we need every facility in every area.
- Clarify bullet on performance space.
- Consider wireless computer connections in parks.

Additional Issues and Concerns

Members discussed a suggestion made by Mr. Farley that the committee recommend to the City Council that the council place a \$30 million parks bond measure on the November 2004 ballot. Mr. Farley advocated that the City survey the community for support a bond. Ms. Cuellar agreed, pointing out that interest rates were currently low and that might not be true in the future.

Ms. Nathanson had concerns about the timing of a new bond measure given that the bond proceeds from the last bond had not all been spent. She was also concerned about the timing of such a bond. She pointed out that the last bond succeeded because it was clear what was being funded. Members agreed it was important to provide an accounting of how the last bond measure was spent, and be aware of other money measures on the November ballot. Members also agreed with Ms. Nathanson that it was important to clearly state to the voters where the money would be spent, and that the committee needed to fine-tune the concept before going to the council. However, because the next date the council could offer such a bond to the public without triggering the double-majority requirement was in 2006, members generally concurred it was important to proceed.

Mr. Farley, seconded by Ms. Swisher, moved to recommend to the City Council that it investigate the feasibility of placing a \$30 million parks ballot on the November 2004 ballot. The motion passed, 10:1; Ms. Bottge voting no.

V. Close

The next meeting was scheduled for May 5, 2004.

The meeting adjourned at 9:25 p.m.

(Recorded by Kimberly Young)